MARVEL COMICS
1 DEC
VENOM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SEPARATION ANXIETY
PART 1 OF 4
EDDIE BROCK™-- WITHOUT HIS LIVING COSTUME-- AT THE MERCY OF FIVE SYMBIOTES!

Look at them.
They're afraid of me.
I can't move a muscle...
...got weapons pointed at every major organ...
...and they're afraid of me!

You'd think that Eddie Brock was a dangerous man!
STAN LEE PRESENTS VENOM: SEPARATION ANXIETY PART I OF IV
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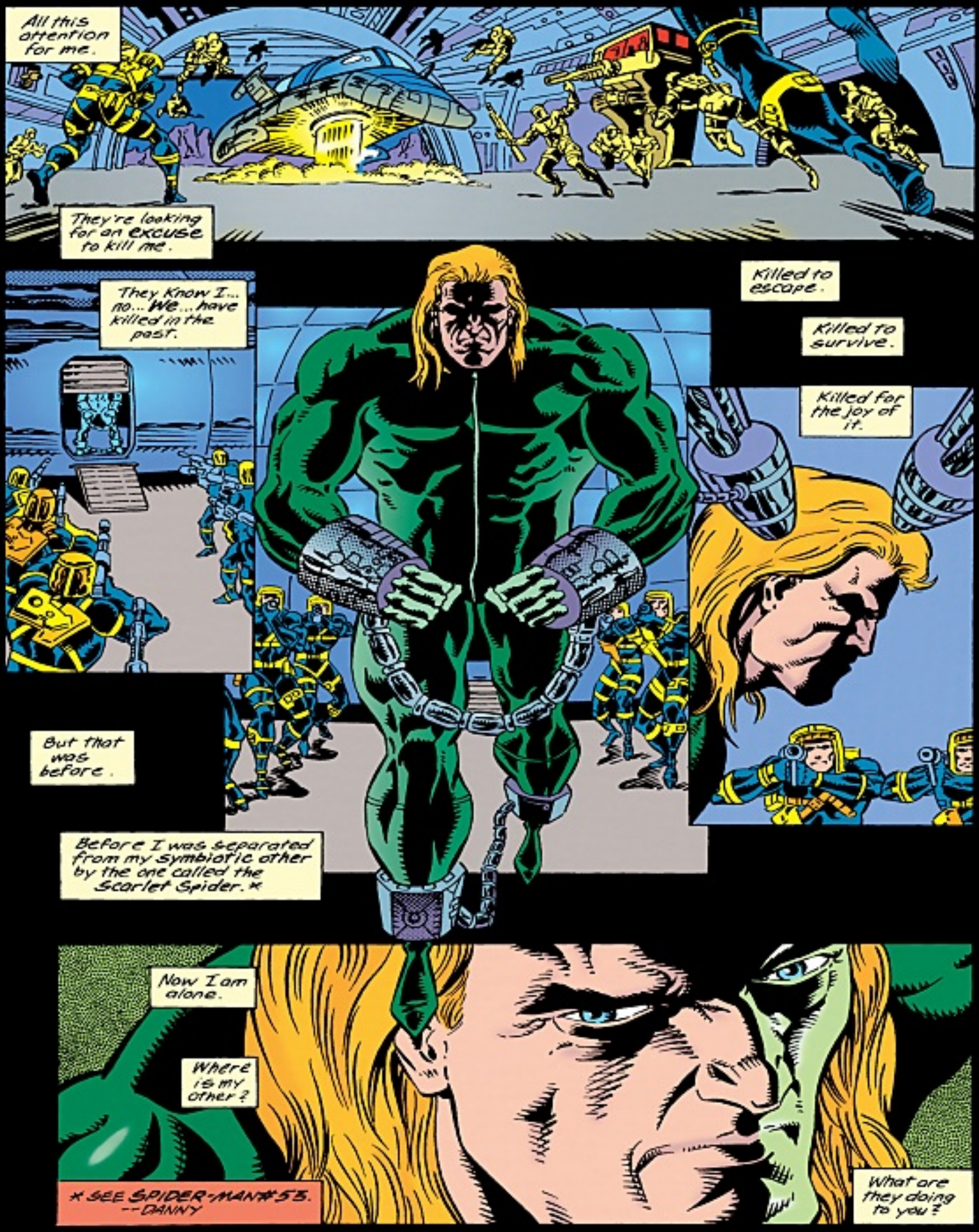
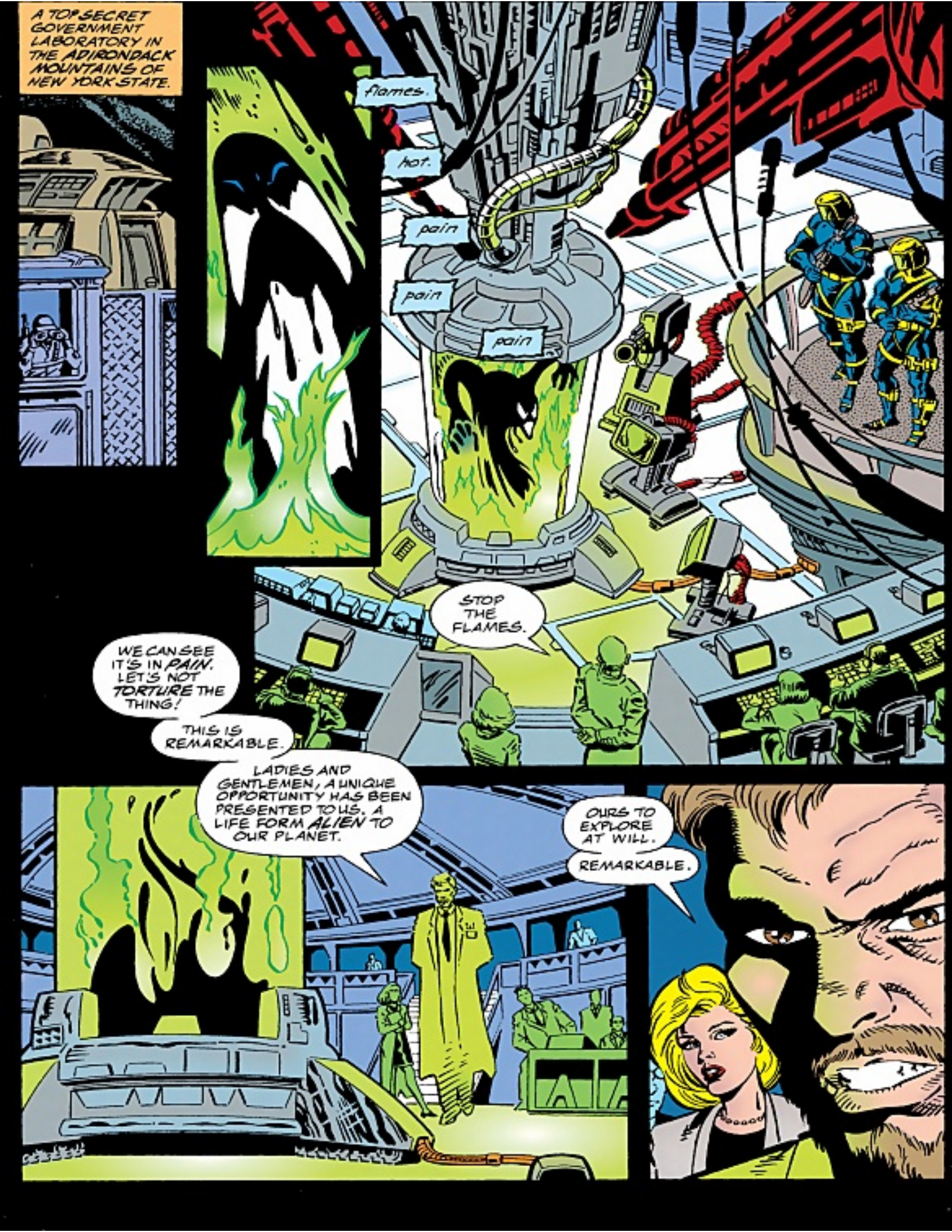

All this attention for me.
They're looking for an excuse to kill me.
They know I... no... we... have killed in the past.
Killed to escape.
Killed to survive.
Killed for the joy of it.
But that was before.
Before I was separated from my symbiotic other by the one called the Scarlet Spider. *
Now I am alone.
Where is my other?
What are they doing to you?
* SEE SPIDER-MAN #53. --DANNY


A TOP SECRET GOVERNMENT LABORATORY IN THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS OF NEW YORK STATE.
flames.
hot.
pain
pain
pain
STOP THE FLAMES.
WE CAN SEE IT'S IN PAIN. LET'S NOT TORTURE THE THING!
THIS IS REMARKABLE.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO US. A LIFE FORM ALIEN TO OUR PLANET.
OURS TO EXPLORE AT WILL.
REMARKABLE.

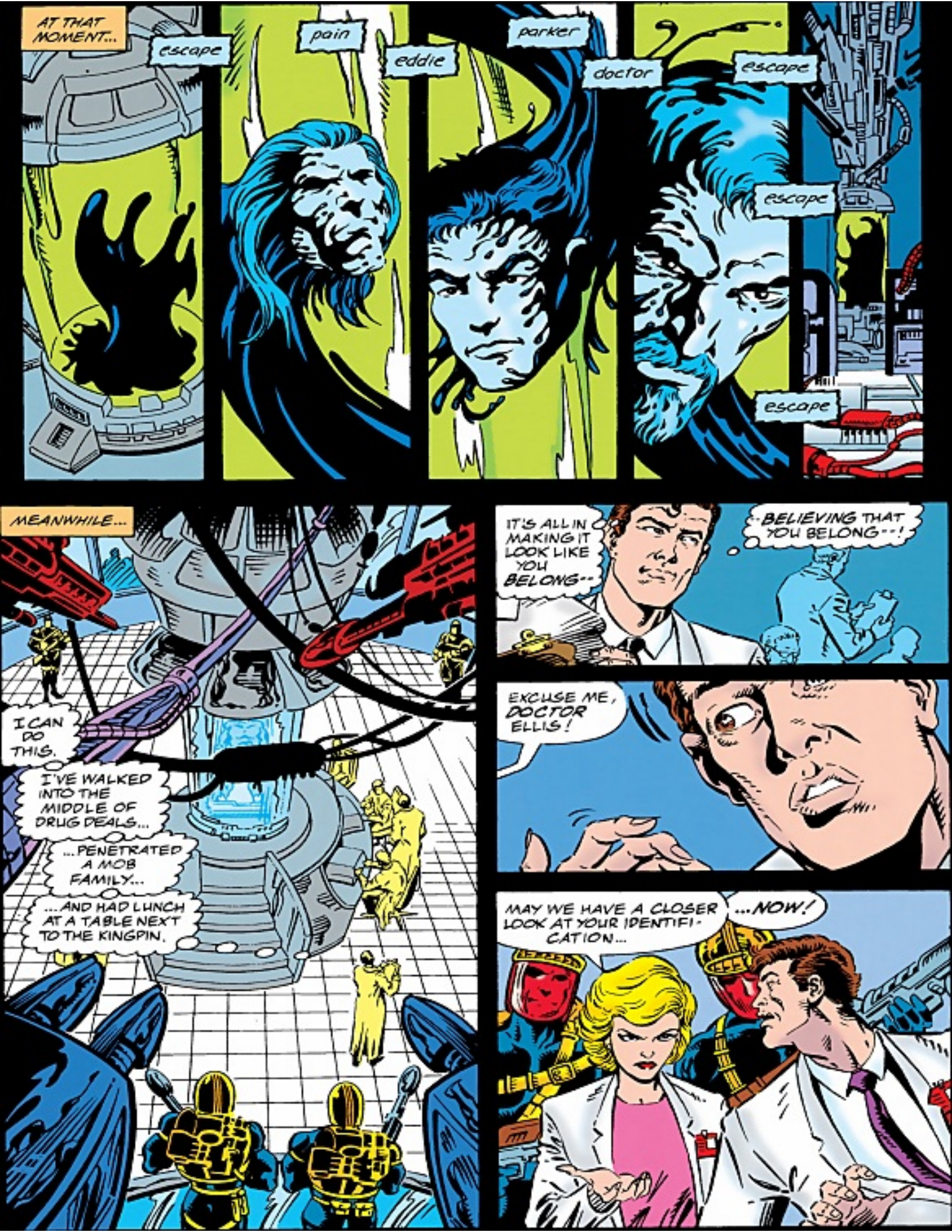
DR. ZWERLING--
--IT APPEARS TO BE STARING AT...
...YOU!
eddie
pain
escape
eddie
IT IS ATTEMPTING COMMUNICATION.
APPARENTLY IT MISSES ITS FORMER HOST.
TRULY REMARKABLE.

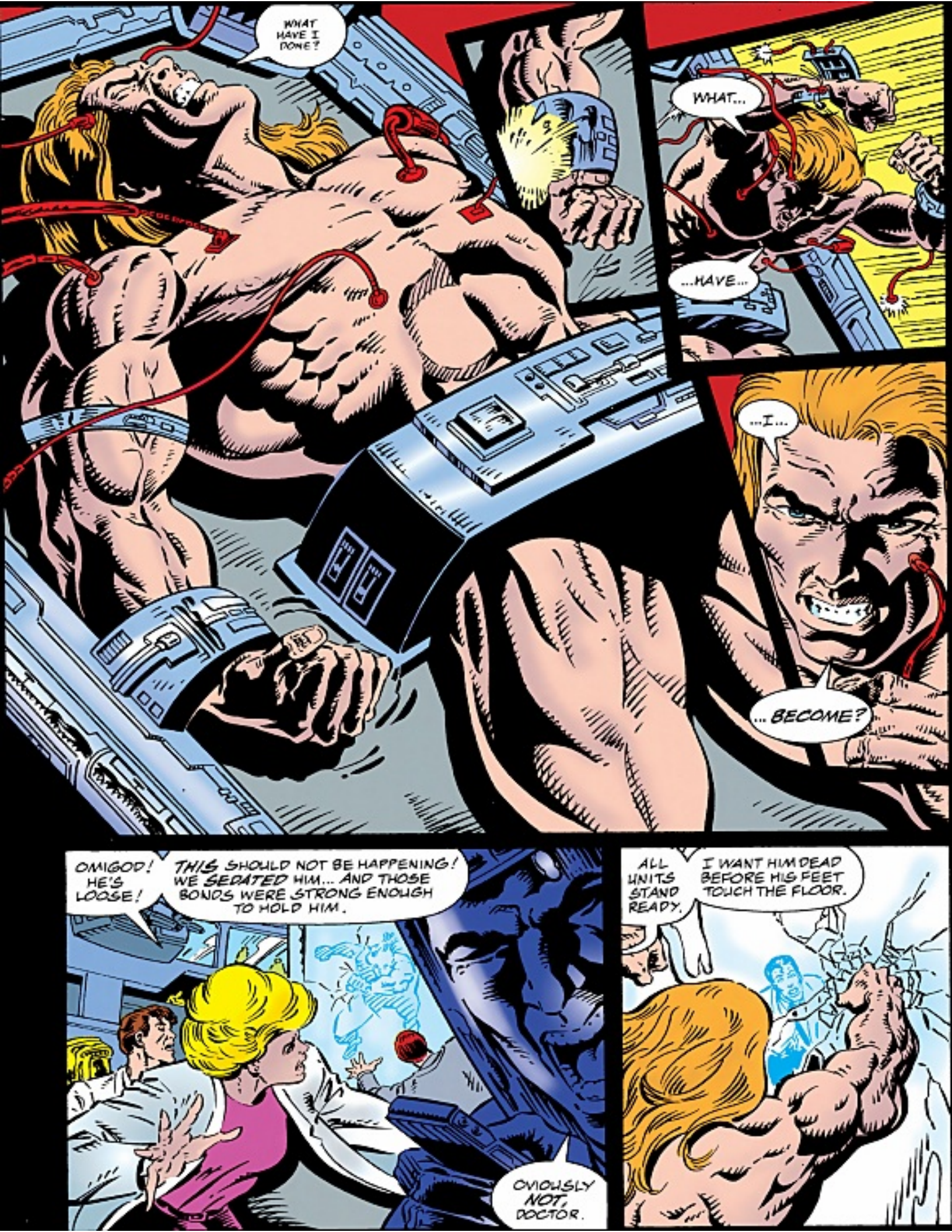
A FEW DAYS LATER, AT THE NEW MEXICO FACILITY AT WHICH EDDIE BROCK IS BEING STUDIED...
YOU'RE CLEARED, DR. ELLIS. STRAIGHT DOWN THE HALL INTO THE CONTAINMENT ROOM. KEEP YOUR I.D. VISIBLE AT ALL TIMES.
THANK YOU, SERGEANT.
MY MOTHER ALWAYS WANTED ME TO BE A DOCTOR INSTEAD OF A JOURNALIST.
WONDER WHAT SHE'D THINK OF ME AS AN INMATE DOING TIME AT A FEDERAL PRISON?
HAD TO SPREAD A LOT OF CASH AROUND... CALL IN A LOT OF FAVORS TO GET THE LOCATION OF THIS PLACE. EVEN HAD TO USE SOME VACATION TIME.
COULDN'T LET JAMESON KNOW THAT ONE OF HIS DAILY BUGLE REPORTERS WAS PLANNING TO SNEAK INTO A GOVERNMENT FACILITY.
ANYTHING TO HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE ON BROCK AND VENOM.
ANYTHING FOR THE CAREER--?

OH, YEAH...
...THIS IS GOING TO BE A PIECE OF CAKE.
AS LONG AS I DON'T GET KILLED FIRST!

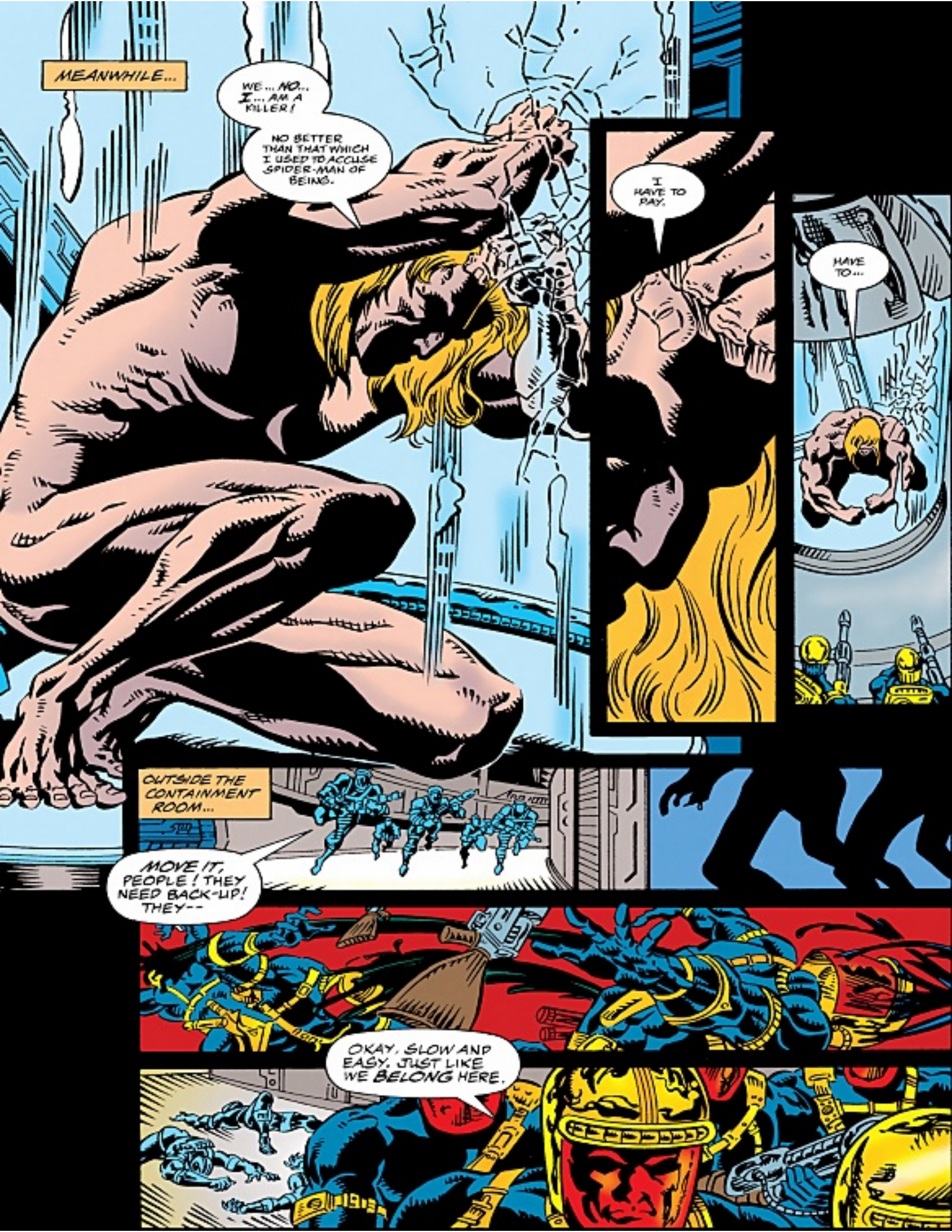
The silence is the worst part.
No one will talk to me.
Not that I can blame them.
It's just that I haven't been really alone since...
...since the day I went to church...
...and was united with my other!
It was painful at first. I resisted, but then we discovered we had a common enemy...
...Spider-Man!
On that day, We became one.
We became Venom!
Ours was a single goal!

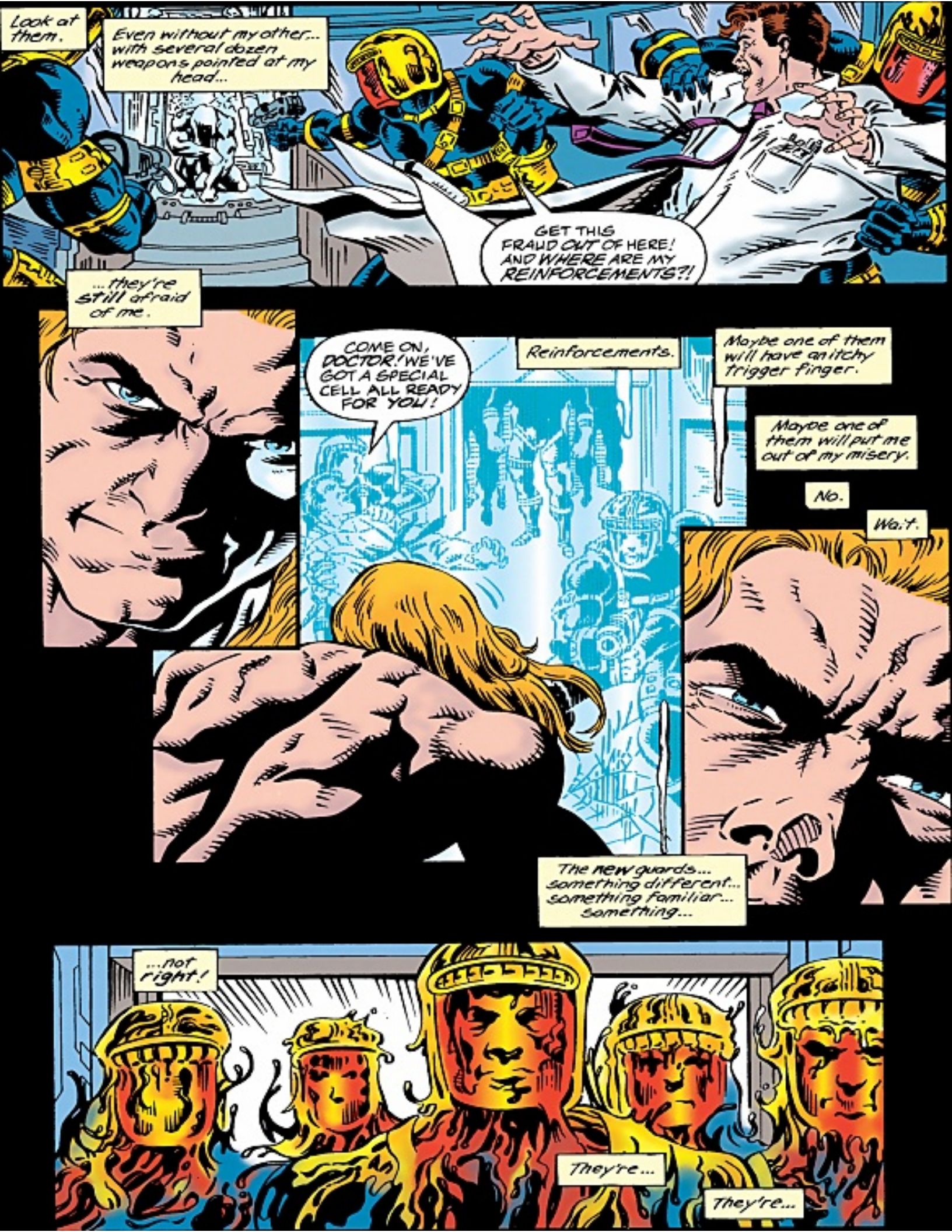
Kill Spider-Man at all costs.
All costs!
In our anger, we lashed out at all who stood in our way.
Policemen.
Federal guards.
Innocent bystanders.
All fell before our rage... our Venom!
We... I... we... killed...
Now I'm alone with my sins.
Alone to ask myself...
WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHAT HAVE I BECOME?


AT THAT MOMENT...
escape
pain
eddie
parker
doctor
escape
escape
escape
MEANWHILE...
I CAN DO THIS.
I'VE WALKED INTO THE MIDDLE OF DRUG DEALS...
...PENETRATED A MOB FAMILY...
...AND HAD LUNCH AT A TABLE NEXT TO THE KINGPIN.
IT'S ALL IN MAKING IT LOOK LIKE YOU BELONG--
--BELIEVING THAT YOU BELONG--!
EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR ELLIS!
MAY WE HAVE A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR IDENTIFICATION...
...NOW!


WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT...
...HAVE...
...I...
...BECOME?
OMIGOD! HE'S LOOSE!
THIS SHOULD NOT BE HAPPENING! WE SEDATED HIM... AND THOSE BONDS WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD HIM.
OVIOUSLY NOT, DOCTOR.
ALL UNITS STAND READY.
I WANT HIM DEAD BEFORE HIS FEET TOUCH THE FLOOR.

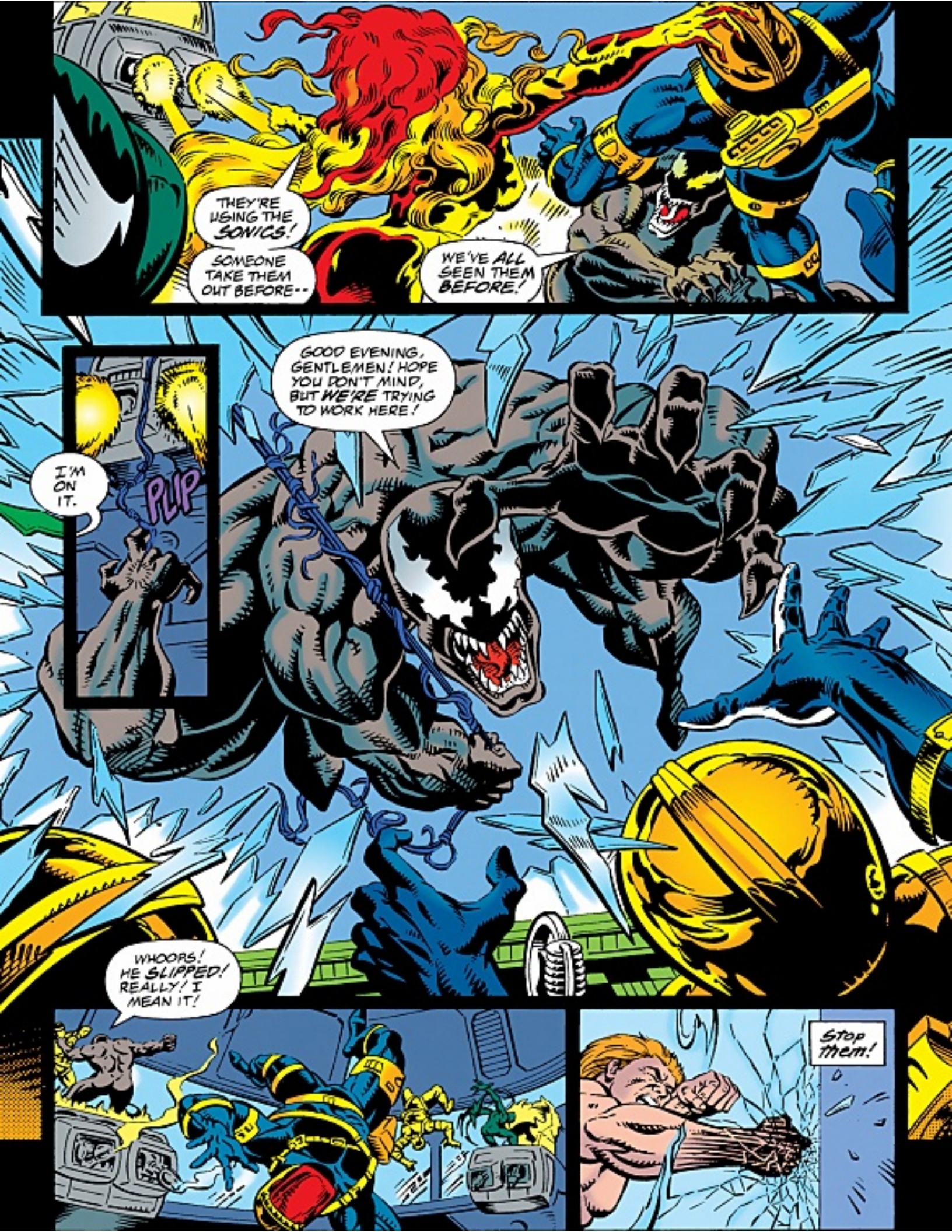
OUTSIDE THE FACILITY, ALL IS CALM.
TO AN OUTSIDE OBSERVER, THE GUARDS ON DUTY APPEAR TO BE RELAXED, BUT...
FREEZE!
NO NEED FOR THE GUNS, FELLAS. AS YOU CAN SEE...
... I'M NOT CONCEALING ANY WEAPONS!
DO NOT MOVE A MUSCLE, LADY!
NOT IMPRESSED BY THE OUTFIT?
I CAN LIVE WITH THE DISAPPOINTMENT.
CAN YOU?


MEANWHILE...
WE... NO... I... AM A KILLER!
NO BETTER THAN THAT WHICH I USED TO ACCUSE SPIDER-MAN OF BEING.
I HAVE TO PAY.
HAVE TO...
OUTSIDE THE CONTAINMENT ROOM...
MOVE IT, PEOPLE! THEY NEED BACK-UP! THEY--
OKAY. SLOW AND EASY. JUST LIKE WE BELONG HERE.


Look at them.
Even without my other... with several dozen weapons pointed at my head...
GET THIS FRAUD OUT OF HERE! AND WHERE ARE MY REINFORCEMENTS?!
...they're still afraid of me.
COME ON, DOCTOR! WE'VE GOT A SPECIAL CELL ALL READY FOR YOU!
Reinforcements.
Maybe one of them will have an itchy trigger finger.
Maybe one of them will put me out of my misery.
No.
Wait.
The new guards... something different... something familiar... something...
...not right!
They're...
They're...

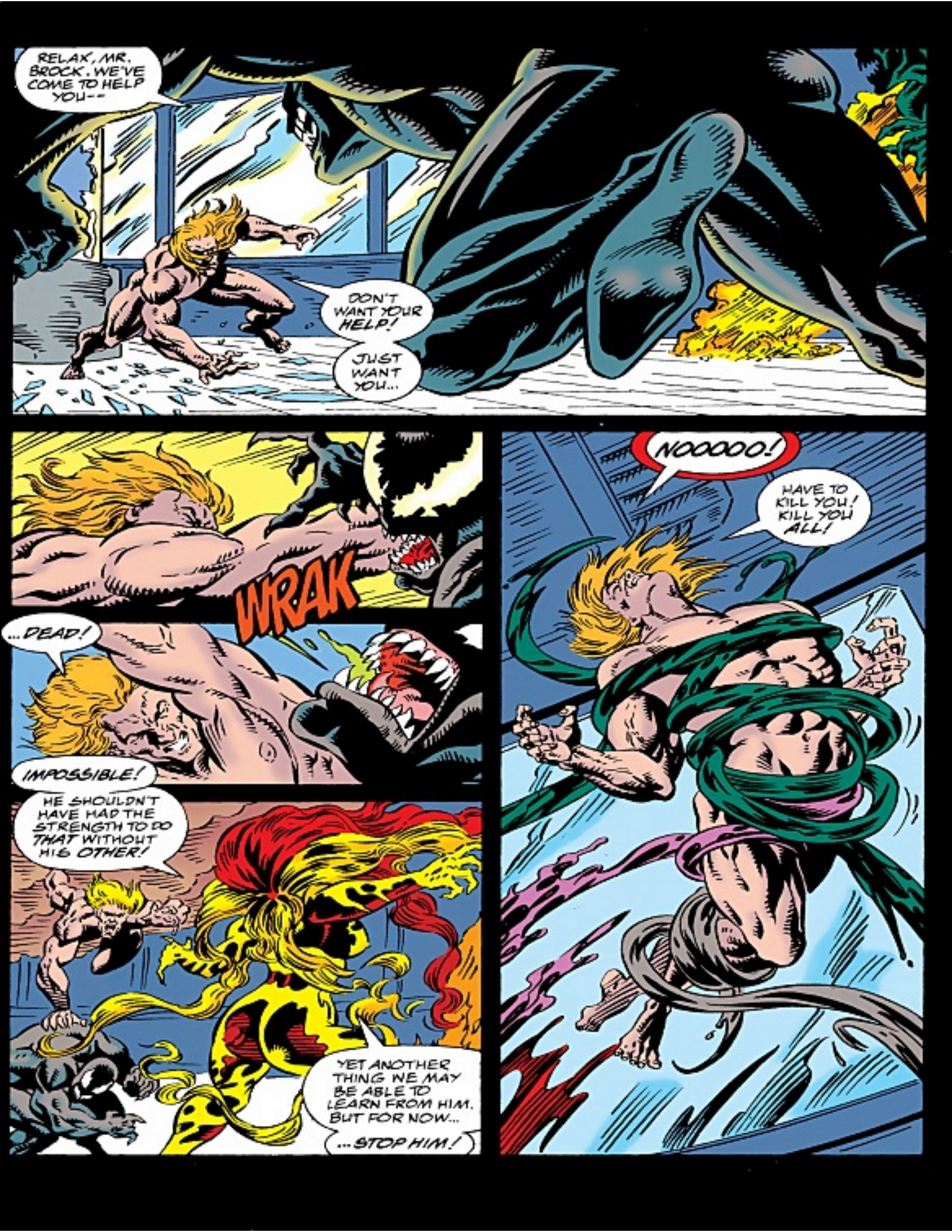
Symbiotes!
It's them!
The ones we left for dead at the Life Foundation*!
How did they survive?
* AS SEEN IN VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #5. --PANNY
What are they doing here?
I've got to stop them!
Got to--!

WE SURPRISED THEM! WE REALLY SURPRISED THEM!
GOT TO DESTROY THEIR WEAPONS BEFORE THEY CAN TURN THEM ON US!
HURT THEM, BUT DON'T KILL THEM. LIKE THEY'D GIVE US THE SAME CONSIDERATION!
GUESS THAT MAKES US BETTER THAN THEM, DON'T IT?
EAT YOUR HEART OUT, ULRICH!
THIS IS MORE THAN EVEN I BARGAINED FOR!
BUT WHAT AN INSIDE STORY TO HAVE!
Got to stop them!


THEY'RE USING THE SONICS!
SOMEONE TAKE THEM OUT BEFORE--
WE'VE ALL SEEN THEM BEFORE!
GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN! HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT WE'RE TRYING TO WORK HERE!
I'M ON IT.
PLIP
WHOOPS! HE SLIPPED! REALLY! I MEAN IT!
Stop them!

WE DID IT! ALL OF US!
THEY CAN'T STOP US! NONE OF THEM CAN!
WE SHOULD PEEL THESE SUITS OPEN AND SEE WHAT'S INSIDE! WE...
NO!
LOSING... CONTROL... AGAIN! CAN'T... HELP... MYSELF... THE OTHER... IS TAKING... OVER... GOT TO... STOP...IT!
LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET EVEN UGLIER, KENNY BOY.

GET A GRIP! REGAIN CONTROL!
WHY?
OUR OTHERS GIVE US STRENGTH! STRENGTH TO DO WHATEVER WE PLEASE--
STOP!
WE'VE GOT TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF OURSELVES! OTHERWISE WE ARE NO BETTER THAN--
KTASH
--HIM!


RELAX, MR. BROCK. WE'VE COME TO HELP YOU--
DON'T WANT YOUR HELP!
JUST WANT YOU...
WRAK
...DEAD!
IMPOSSIBLE!
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE STRENGTH TO DO THAT WITHOUT HIS OTHER!
YET ANOTHER THING WE MAY BE ABLE TO LEARN FROM HIM. BUT FOR NOW...
...STOP HIM!
NOOOOO!
HAVE TO KILL YOU! KILL YOU ALL!

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH!